

REMARKS

Applicants have received the Office Action dated October 16, 2009, in which the Examiner: 1) allowed claims 16-18; and 2) rejected claims 1-5 and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious under Wallace et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,968,317, hereinafter “Wallace”) in view of Musmanno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,641, hereinafter “Musmanno”), O’Shaughnessy (U.S. Patent No. 6,484,151, hereinafter “O’Shaughnessy”), and Bursey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,356,497, hereinafter “Bursey”). With this Amendment, Applicants amend the independent claims according to Examiner’s suggestion. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed, or that limitations from the specification can be imported into the claims. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in attachments accompanying this document. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this document, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account Number 03-2769/1991-00100.

Respectfully submitted,

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